

MODULE-2

LESSON-2
A GIFT OF CHAPPALS

DESCRIPTION OF MAIN CHARACTERS:

1. KITTEN : NAME MAHENDRAN -- FULL NAME --- MAHENDRAVARMA PALLAVA POONAI(IN TAMIL POONAI MEANS CAT). MAHENDRAN COMPARED TO A LION AND BELIEVED TO BE A DESCENDENT OF RISHI CAT FROM EGYPT.

2.LALLI : MRIDU'S COUSIN ---- LEARNING TO PLAY VIOLIN ----- BUT VERY BAD AT IT.

“Mahendran? This little kitty’s name is Mahendran?”

Mridu was impressed! It was a *real* name—not just a cute kitty-cat name.

“Actually his full name is Mahendravarma Pallava Poonai. M.P. Poonai for short if you like.

He’s a fine breed of cat. Just look at his fur. Like a lion’s mane! And you know what the emblem of the ancient Pallava kings was, don’t you?” he looked **expectantly** at Mridu.

•Mridu giggled.

*EXPECTANTLY- EXCITED FEELING

“Think I’m joking? Well, just wait. I’ll show you sometime. It’s clear you don’t know a thing about history.

Haven’t been to Mahabalipuram, have you?” he said **mysteriously**.

“Well, when our class went to Mahabalipuram, I saw a statue of his thatha’s thatha’s thatha’s thatha’s thatha’s... etcetera, etcetera... Fact is, Mahendran here is **descended** from that very same ancient cat. A close relative, scientifically speaking, of none other than the lion. The Pallava lion, emblem of the Pallava dynasty!”

*MYSTERIOUSLY- WHICH IS
DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND

*DESCENDED- CAME FROM

Ravi went on, walking around the bitter-berry bush, waving a twig up and down, his eyes sparkling.

“This cat is a descendant of none other than the Mahabalipuram Rishi-Cat! And if I may just remind you, they worshipped cats in ancient Egypt!”

Meena and Mridu exchanged looks.

“What does that have to do with anything?” Mridu demanded.

“Huh! I’m telling you this cat is descended...from the Egyptian cat-god... no, goddess! Bastet!

Ya! That’s it!” “So?”

“Well, one of the descendants of that cat-goddess was a **stowaway** in one of the Pallava ships, and *his*

descendant was the Mahabalipuram Rishi-Cat. whose descendant is —”

Ravi flourished his twig at

Mahendran “— M.P. Poonai here...

whoop EEK!” he shrieked, very pleased with himself.

***Stowaway-** who hides himself/herself in a ship or an aircraft to travel unnoticed

Mahendran looked up, alarmed. He had just been sharpening his claws on the edge of the coconut shell. But worse than Ravi's awful whoop EEK was a 'Kreech...!' from the window.

What a **weird** sound! If Mridu was startled, M.P. Poonai was frightened out of his wits. Hair standing on end, he bounced up and **scurried** towards a bamboo tray of red chillies that had been set out to dry. Trying to hide beneath it, he tipped a few chillies over himself.

"Mi-a-aw!" he howled miserably.

***Weird**- strange or unusual

***scurried**- moved hurriedly

The 'kreeching' went on and on.

"What's that noise?" said Mridu.

"That's Lalli learning to play the violin," **grunted** Ravi.

"She'll never learn a thing. The music master just goes on playing like a train **whizzing** on and on, while Lalli's all the time derailing! Going completely off track!"

***Grunted-** make a low sound

***Whizzing-** move quickly with a whistling sound